(b) Does not arise.

(c) Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) has been authorised to provided e-ticketing facility to passengers.

Pending proposals for introduction of new trains

2841. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for introduction of new trains pending with his Ministry;

(b) whether it is a fact that certain proposals were made by the State Government of Rajasthan;

(c) if so, the details of those proposals;

(d) what is the criterion for introduction of new trains; and

(e) on what grounds the proposals received from the State of Rajasthan are not being accepted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Out of 55 pairs of trains announced in Railway Budget 2006-07, only 4 pairs of trains are left for introduction. Further, 45 pairs of new trains have been announced to be introduced during 2007-08.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. No such proposal has been received from Government of Rajasthan. However, some proposals have been received from people's representatives *inter alia* regarding introduction of trains.

(d) and (e) New train services are introduced subject to traffic justification, availability of resources, operational feasilbility etc. Introduction of new trains is an ongoing exercise over Indian Railways an new train services are gradually provided irrespective of geographical boundaries every year. 5 pairs of new trains services announced in Railway Budget 2007-08 will serve Rajasthan.

Construction of second platform on Sajanpur

2842. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a second platform has been constructed at Sajanpur railway

station on the Pathankot-Jammu section of the Northern railway but a connecting overhead bridge has not so far been provided, thereby causing difficulties to the passengers; and

(b) by when the overhead bridge is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) the question perhaps refers to Sujanpur station on Pathankot-Jammu section as sajanpur station does not exist on this section. There are two medium level platforms for UP & DN trains at Sujanpur 'E' class station, having meagre passenger traffic. As per minimum essential criteria, an overhead bridge is not essentially required. However, the platforms are connected at their ends to enable passengers to go from one platform to another, for the present.

Rail linkage between Chennai Egmore and Central Railway stations

2843. DR. K. MALAISAMY:
SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rail linkage between the two gateways of Tamil Nadu-Egmore Railway Station and Chennai Central Railway Station was rightly conceived and foundation ceremony conducted during 2003:

(b) if so, what is holding up for proceeding further;

(c) whether it would be so insurmountable to get over such hurdles, if any; and

(d) by when it could be taken up for execution and the time-frame for completion of the work, in the wake of long felt need of the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The estimate for this project was sanctioned in 2003. The technical feasibility and commercial viability study of this project was entrusted to M/s RITES. Out of the various alternatives suggested, the